

What is Claimed is:

1. A self-service terminal comprising:
a media acceptor for receiving media items; and
a wireless tag reader for reading received media items incorporating wireless tags.
2. A terminal according to claim 1, further comprising means defining a temporary storage facility incorporating the wireless tag reader.
3. A terminal according to claim 2, further comprising means defining a second storage facility for receiving the contents of the temporary storage facility when a transaction is accepted by a user.
4. A terminal according to claim 1, further comprising means for analyzing a media item.
5. A method of operating a self-service terminal, the method comprising:
receiving a media item from a user;
detecting a wireless tag incorporated within the received media item;
reading data from the detected wireless tag; and
presenting the read data to the user for acceptance by the user.

6. A method according to claim 5, further comprising:
receiving the user's response to the presented data;
returning the media item to the user when the user cancels the transaction; and
storing the media item when the user proceeds with the transaction.
7. A method according to claim 6, further comprising:
associating the identity of the user with the wireless tags in the media items deposited.
8. A method according to claim 7, further comprising:
removing the deposited media items from the terminal;
validating the media items; and
tracing the depositor of any media item that is not validated.
9. A method of rendering valueless valuable media items having a substrate incorporating a wireless tag, comprising:
defacing the substrate while maintaining the integrity of the wireless tag so that the wireless tag may be subsequently read.
10. A method according to claim 9, further comprising:
reading the wireless tags in the valuable media items to determine the value of the media items that have been defaced.

11. A method according to claim 9, further comprising:
relaying to a remote center information about the media items that have been defaced.
12. A valuable media store comprising:
a wireless tag reader for reading a wireless tag incorporated into a substrate of a media item;
a tamper detection circuit; and
defacing means in operative communication with the tamper detection circuit and for defacing the substrate without destroying the wireless tag when tampering with the valuable media store occurs.
13. A method of improving the security of a valuable media item having a substrate incorporating a wireless tag, the method comprising:
reading a unique serial code from the wireless tag; and
encoding the unique serial code onto the substrate so that the media item can be validated by comparing the serial code stored in the wireless tag with the serial code encoded on the media substrate.
14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the serial code is encoded in machine readable form to facilitate automated reading of both the wireless tag and the serial code.
15. A valuable media item comprising:
a wireless tag; and

a substrate incorporating the wireless tag, wherein the substrate includes an encoded representation of a serial code stored within the wireless tag.

16. A method of operating a self-service terminal storing a plurality of media items, each having a substrate incorporating a wireless tag, the method comprising:

- preparing media items for dispensing to a user;
- reading the wireless tags incorporated into the prepared media items;
- presenting the media items to a user for removal;
- retracting the presented media items when the user does not remove the media items within a predetermined time period;
- reading the wireless tags incorporated into the presented media items; and
- recording any discrepancy between the media items presented and the media items retracted.

17. A self-service terminal comprising:

- a media dispenser including a presenter module for presenting a bunch of media items to a user; and
- a wireless tag reader for (i) reading media items when they are presented to a user and (ii) reading media items when they are retracted.

18. A self-service terminal comprising:

- a media sensor for detecting multiple superimposed media items having a substrate incorporating a wireless tag, the media sensor including a wireless tag reader for reading the wireless tag in each media item.

19. A method of detecting multiple superimposed media items, each item having a wireless tag incorporated in a substrate, the method comprising:

reading the wireless tags in the vicinity of the tag reader; and

detecting the tags in the vicinity of the reader to determine how many media items are being transported.

20. A method of authenticating an item comprising:

reading information applied to a surface of the item;

reading a wireless tag embedded in the item;

comparing data retrieved from the wireless tag to data read from the surface of the item; and

processing the item when the printed data is consistent with the data read from the wireless tag.